

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is an outrageous attempt at electioneering.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Attempting to get their preferred candidate into the white house is the interest of a few owners, not the public's.

The FCC usually does not intervene before violations take place. However, due to the numerous complaints that will be received on this issue, the FCC does have prior knowledge and should not act in a way that pretends otherwise. It seems difficult to argue that Sinclair has a right to violate laws which they have agreed to follow. If they had been honest about their intentions before agreeing, then they would not be in the position to break the law now.

Sinclair's actions also serve to demonstrate the dangers of allowing more media consolidation, and that at a minimum consolidated companies should receive more scrutiny from the FCC.